

Times DIARY

By IAN BUCHAN

THERE will be a rush by Glasgow Labour MPs and their wives and councillors to buy a book due to hit the shops in the first week of March.

The news I have for them though is bad – they will not be making fortunes by suing the authors and the publisher.

In the words of Marion Sinclair of Polygon Press “there has been some judicious rewording after legal advice.”

The book is *Time To Rage* by Tommy Sheridan and Joan McAlpine, the wife of Pat Kane of *Hue And Cry*.

It should have appeared by this time but just to make sure that the authors and publisher weren't laying themselves open to actions in the Court of Session, a libel lawyer in Edinburgh was shown the script.

What he advised took Tommy and Joan back to Edinburgh to burn the midnight oil with Marion Sinclair.

Marion told me today: “Every name is still there but some of Tommy's more robust comments have had to be deleted or reworded. Make no mistake, it's still highly entertaining but we think we have avoided any chance of libel actions.”

Tommy reveals his venom for three groups – Labour MPs and their wives, councillors, and sheriff officers. It tells how he got into politics, how he was recruited by Militant at

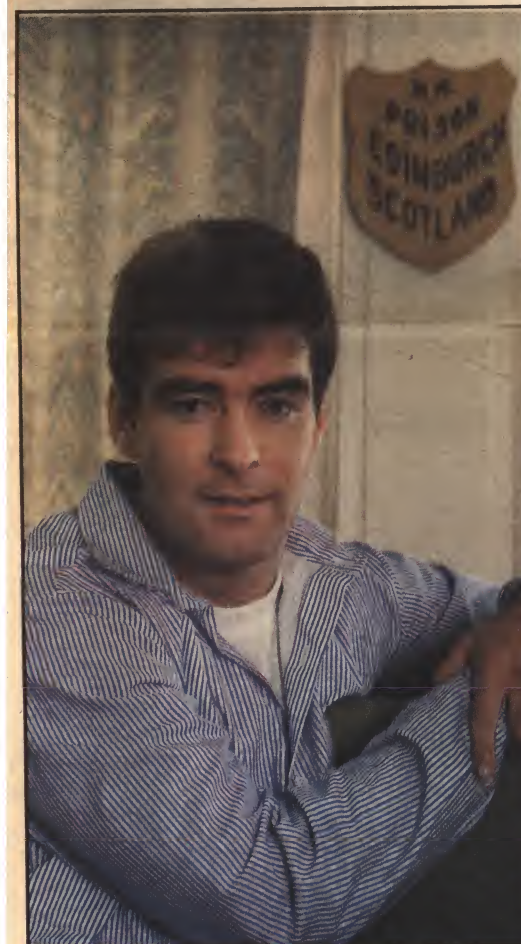
Tommy guns them down!



TOMMY SHERIDAN Stirling University, his expulsion from the Labour Party, his campaign against the Poll Tax, and his election as councillor for Pollok.

It's illustrated, particularly the Poll Tax battle with the police at Turnbull Street.

Marion Sinclair said: “I think we had to reword five passages because they were just too frank.”



Picture: MARTIN SHIELDS

KEY ISSUES FOR TOMMY

TOMMY Sheridan is on the election trail – with a difference.

As candidates from every other party criss-cross the country, knocking on doors, Poll Tax rebel Sheridan is locked up in jail.

But this is one “political” prisoner who refuses to let simple things like prison bars prevent him having his say.

Today, in an exclusive

EXCLUSIVE

By FIONA MONTGOMERY

interview at Saughton jail, Scottish Militant Labour's candidate in Pollok explains how he will fight to defend the working class.

And on a lighter note, he wonders what cell phone would be best to keep him in touch with the outside world!

EXCLUSIVE . . . POLL TAX REBEL CAMPAIGNS FROM JAIL

ELECTION PLEDGE OF PRISONER CIVIL 2/92

JAILED Poll Tax rebel Tommy Sheridan sent a message to the voters of Pollok today . . . from behind bars.

In Edinburgh's Saughton Prison Sheridan said: "Vote for me to defend Scotland's working class."

Sheridan, in an exclusive interview, the first since he was locked up for breaching a court order, said he has had tremendous support from fellow inmates and staff.

Jail bosses have been obliged to give him special treatment to allow him to fight his campaign for Scottish Militant Labour.

Dressed in prison uniform at his own choice, he was brought from the Training for Freedom unit he shares with around 14 lifers and long-term prisoners, to a staff training classroom for the interview.

The jail's 'star' prisoner was left in peace to explain his policies and his election campaign plans, then consulted by a senior governor as to whether the room was suitable for a press conference planned for next week.

Under the Representation of the People Act - as a civil prisoner - Sheridan (26) must be given facilities to allow him to conduct his campaign.

PHONE

Looking relaxed and confident, wearing prison issue brown slippers, a striped shirt and denim trousers, he said: "For the first week I was locked up 18 hours a day and 20 at the weekend."

"The unit is much more relaxed. Like other civil prisoners I have my own cell, but in the unit I can move about and use the phone whenever I want."

His mother Alice, herself active in the anti-Poll Tax movement, and other family and friends are, forfeiting their half-hour weekly visit to allow Sheridan's election agent to see him.

The agent, Keith Baldassara is also allowed three visits a week to discuss election business and is currently trying to arrange a mobile phone so Sheridan will be able to receive calls.

Tommy Sheridan, working class hero, with the ultimate yuppie accessory for jailbirds - a cell phone. Is he kidding? Certainly not.

MESSAGE

Sheridan laughs, especially at the suggestion that he could earn a good sum Derek Hatton-style advertising the phone, which he claims sympathetic footballers, including some from Rangers, are being asked to help pay for.

Rejecting suggestions that being jailed makes him a martyr and suits his cause perfectly, Sheridan replies that he would much rather



Interview by:
**FIONA
MONTGOMERY**

be free to fight the campaign.

He said: "I don't think anyone in their right mind would want to be in prison and I shouldn't be. Kenneth Baker broke the law by deporting a student back to Zaire but was only fined £200. B & Q break the law opening on Sundays in England but they aren't prosecuted and flung in jail."

"I don't accept the idea that this helps my campaign. One of the talents I do have is I can speak quite well."

MEDIA

"So one of the huge disadvantages I have is not being able to speak at the important public meetings we are having in Pollok, nor can I talk to people on the doorsteps."

"The only way I can is through the press and media and I need a phone so

they can contact me. If not I would be deaf and dumb."

The last person to fight a parliamentary election campaign from behind bars was IRA gunman Bobby Sands who won his seat shortly before he died on the 66th day of his hunger strike.

But Sheridan prefers to relate his current situation to the Red Clydesiders and John MacLean.

He said: "Not wanting to make a comparison because I don't have the right to, I remember reading about John MacLean in 1918."

VOTES

"He had been given five years in Peterhead and was freed after less than 7 months on December 2. He was a candidate in the Gorbals and on Dec 9 he got 7438 votes."

"If I get 7000 votes it will be a very close contest in Pollok. It's going to be a three way split this time with us, Labour and the SNP. But the Labour vote is very, very soft."

However, as Jimmy Dunnachie has a majority of almost 15,000 Sheridan is highly unlikely to be Scotland's first MP elected while in jail.

His anti-Poll Tax Federation friends will put up a good fight though and he is a popular figure locally, playing football, campaigning for and organising facilities for young people - including 'Raves for Militant' - and speaking out against drug dealers.

Over 200 activists, mainly from Glasgow, have been helping the campaign with, they say, over 6000 people canvassed and good support for Sheridan.

One worry for him is the possibility Labour-run Strathclyde regional council could instigate bankruptcy proceedings against him over his Poll Tax arrears.

SPECIAL

Sheridan said: "Bankrupting someone who is unemployed has no logic other than stopping me standing for public office."

"To do it quickly they would have to make a special case of me. If they push it through it could be very quick, not in time for this election but it could prevent me standing if there is a hung parliament and a second election later this year."

He added that he would fight any attempt and warned councillors to remember they have a social conscience.

EXPERTS

Meanwhile, his message to voters everywhere except Pollok is to vote Labour, despite Neil Kinnock's 'abandonment of principle' and Tommy promises to be the party's conscience, demanding that a Labour government doesn't also abandon the working class.

If he wins, experts say, he would be able to take up his seat in Parliament after serving the rest of his six-month sentence.

Whatever happens, Sheridan seems certain to remain Pollok's own very angry young man.



TOMMY SHERIDAN . . . needs a phone to get his election message across. Picture: MARTIN SHIELDS

So confident of victory

JIMMY DUNNACHIE, defending Pollok for Labour, dismissed Sheridan's campaign and insisted: "I'm confident I will win and Labour will win the election."

"Our policies offer hope for the people of Pollok. Tommy broke the law. He's not in jail because he opposed the Poll Tax -

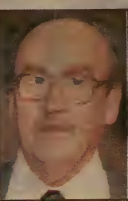
everybody in Scotland opposed the Poll Tax. He's in prison because he broke a court order."

"If you don't have the law you have chaos."

He rejected Sheridan's suggestion that the Labour Party would not exist if people had not been prepared to defy unjust laws.

Mr Dunnachie added: "He is not a member of the Labour Party. He doesn't dictate what the party has done in the past or now."

Other candidates in Glasgow Pollok are Russell Gray (Conservative), George Leslie (SNP) and David Jago (LibDem).



JIMMY DUNNACHIE



Sit-down protest: Alice Sheridan, the mother of the jailed anti-poll tax campaigner Tommy Sheridan, has started a vigil outside Saughton Prison in Edinburgh in protest at her son's six-month prison sen-

ence, writes *Alison Daniels*. She intends to spend the next three days camped in the prison grounds lighting candles every night to draw attention to her claim that Mr Sheridan, recently elected as a Militant

councillor in Glasgow, is a political prisoner. He was jailed for breaching a court order banning him from attending a warrant sale. Mrs Sheridan will be joined by members of the Lothian and

Strathclyde Anti-Poll Tax Federations and says she will be joined by trade union representatives tomorrow. A spokesman for the Scottish Prison Service said that the prison governor and the police

were aware of Mrs Sheridan's presence on the prison grounds, and added: "The governor has decided that they are not doing any harm and there is no point in moving them on to the road."

Sheridan mum in vigil outside prison

THE mother of jailed councillor Tommy Sheridan today began a round-the-clock vigil outside the prison where he is held.

Alice Sheridan (54) – who suffers from ill-health – plans to sit outside Edinburgh's Saughton Prison until Saturday.

She will have only a small seat, a tarpaulin cape to cover her, blankets and a sleeping bag.

CONCERNED

Her Militant rebel son – serving six months for defying a court order – said today he was against the plan.

"I am actually very worried about this," said Sheridan from his prison cell.

"Of course if it was the other way around I would do it for her, but that

doesn't mean I am happy about her doing this for me.

"I am younger and far healthier."

But a defiant Mrs Sheridan said: "Tommy knows I am my own person. He's concerned about my health. He would rather I did not do it.

"But I've wanted to do this for some time. Anyone who would like to come and share the sense of injustice that so many feel about Tommy's imprisonment is welcome to do so.

"It's also to highlight other injustices against the working class in society."

Mrs Sheridan, who lives in Govan, suffers from arthritis, angina and glaucoma.

Activists from the Anti-Poll Tax Federation are holding a rally outside Saughton after the Scotland United demonstration in Edinburgh on Saturday.

EVENING TIMES

LET GLASGOW FLOURISH

Freedom for Poll Tax rebel

POLL tax rebel Tommy Sheridan walked free from prison today and said: "I have no regrets."

The Glasgow councillor, who served four months of a six-month sentence for defying a court order, was hugged by his mother Alice.

Looking slightly shaken, Sheridan told a crowd of well-wishers outside Edinburgh's Saughton Prison: "I would not wish to go to jail again.

"But if I am faced with the exact same circumstances then that is what will happen. Prison is an unpleasant place but I am not going to be frightened by that."

Sheridan said his first stop would be Glasgow's City Chambers to make his first appearance

**Story: RON McKENNA
Picture: MARTIN SHIELDS**

since winning the Pollok seat in the May district elections.

The 27-year-old Militant sensationally snatched the ward from Labour with a 500 majority while serving his sentence.

POORER

He vowed the poll tax campaign would continue and even grow. He added: "I've been overwhelmed with the love and solidarity of hundreds and thousands of people in Scotland who have supported me while I was in prison."

Sheridan told the crowd he was delighted to breath fresh air and

said: "Sadly, nothing much has changed while I've been inside. The rich are getting richer and the poor are still getting poorer."

He spent his first hour of freedom in Edinburgh at the home of a woman supporter - a union shop steward claimed to be the wife of a Saughton prison officer.

Sheridan then boarded a train to Glasgow and had a message for city council leader Jean McFadden, who branded him an enemy of the people.

He said the slur had angered him and added: "I thought it was demeaning that the newly-elected Labour leader, at the first meeting of the city council, chose to attack me rather than the Tories."



FREEDOM SALUTE . . . a young supporter greets Sheridan



SCOTTISH Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

40p

ISSUE 1094 26 June 1992

SOLIDARITY PRICE £1

Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation
**Come and welcome
Tommy Sheridan off
the train from
Saughton jail.**

Wednesday 1 July 12 noon
Queen Street station
For local transport and more
information phone 041 552 1179

TOMMY SHERIDAN PLEDGES:

NO WARRANT SALES!



Tommy Sheridan.

Photo: Jeff Smith.

TOMMY SHERIDAN returns to Glasgow on Wednesday 1 July, after serving a barbaric six-month sentence for stopping a warrant sale.

By Ruth Campbell

It will be a defiant and victorious return. When he arrives at Queen Street station at noon he will be greeted by a huge reception rally. It will escort him across George Square to take his council seat in the City Chambers. Despite the imprisonment of its leader, the anti-poll tax campaign has gone from strength to strength.

- * There has not been one single warrant sale in Scotland;
- * Every polding notified to the campaign has been stopped - almost 2,000 so far;
- * There are now three million non-payers, the majority of the Scottish population;
- * Poll tax collection is a shambles - look at the sheriff officer who called on the police to lend a hand with his dirty work and ended up getting arrested himself;
- * Even the courts realise the tax is un-

collectable. A group of poll tax-busters including Alice Sheridan were convicted of breach of the peace last week yet they were discharged without sentence.

Understandably Tommy is eager to get back to the campaign. He told Militant "I'm looking forward to a big celebration at Queen Street and I hope to see as many people there as possible."

"I was imprisoned for tearing up a piece of paper, a court interdict. That same interdict has since been extended against me and left open-ended. With these vindictive tactics the poll tax authorities think they can scare us into submission. We will continue to prove them wrong."

"I give this pledge to everyone who has put their trust in the strength of the anti-poll tax campaign: There will not be one warrant sale in Glasgow, not one in Strathclyde, not one in Scotland."

"The anti-poll tax campaign will go on until we achieve a full amnesty for non-payers. This is exactly what we said in 1988. We meant it then and we mean it now."

Scottish Militant Labour

The Tommy Sheridan freedom rally
Thursday 2 July 7pm City Halls, Glasgow

Hear **Tommy Sheridan**, fresh from Saughton prison; **Dave Nellist**, expelled Labour MP and guest celebrities. Meeting and entertainment followed by social and late bar Creche available. For local transport and more information ☎ 041 552 6773

TOMMY SHERIDAN: FREE TO FIGHT ON! - PAGES 8 & 9

Y SHERIDAN...



...TO FIGHT ON!

Q You've had some time to reflect during your incarceration. Do you think the experience has changed you personally?

A I REALLY don't know yet. I think I'll have to be out in society again before I'll be able to tell. Usually you can determine changes by what other people say about you. All I can say is that my determination to commit my life to the socialist future has been redoubled through my experience here. I've had the time to reflect on what I've done with my life to date and I'm happy and content with what I've done so far. It's not really a change just a reconfirmation of my political principles and ideas.

Q From what or whom would you say you draw your inspiration?

A UNDOUBTEDLY MY mother has always been a huge influence on me politically and I've got great admiration for what she's achieved and the fact that she's so active in the campaign.

I also get inspiration from the letters I've received, particularly those letters from comrades committed to struggling for socialism under very difficult circumstances such as in Russia and South Africa.

Every single letter I get gives me extra inspiration.

Q What is the first thing you want to do when you get out?

A PEOPLE IN here are asking me that. They tell me that I'll get 'gate fever'. My mind is now occupied with getting out yet. I've got a hundred letters a week to reply to, council business and material to read so I've not had time to think about it too much just yet.

Probably a good game of football is what I'm looking forward to the most!

TOMMY HAS received letters of support from the far corners of the earth and personally replied to them all. Here's a small selection of them.

Kitty McGilvray, Angus

I'd almost given up hope that people had any voice anymore but your win has made me think that there are still people out there willing to vote for someone who has integrity and old-fashioned socialist values.

With the almost unbelievable return of a Tory government, I was sinking into a feeling of hopelessness and helplessness but your win, small though it is in the scale of things, made me stop and think that maybe everything needn't be lost.

You've stood up for what you believe in and you've paid the price — your freedom; without wanting to be too sycophantic, I salute you.

Scottish Tenants Organisation, Glasgow

At a recent meeting of our organisation the district elections were discussed, including your own success. On behalf of our organisation I wish to offer our heartfelt congratulations.

Julie Smith, Wishaw, Lanarkshire

I'm writing to say thanks for the Pollok election result. It showed that where people had an option (a socialist one) they had the courage to vote for it.

I've been a Labour Party member for 12 years and feel that I've got the right to ask the party what are we really about? If it's any consolation, your stand for the poor in Scotland has been an inspiration to a lot of us. Yours in socialism. PS I've been told by my family to say they're asking for you!

Lorna Watson, Kilmarnock

Am I allowed to join the Militants? I ask this because I am 16. My mum says you have to be at least 18.

John Campbell, Dalroddy by Aviemore, Invernesshire

I think that it is absolutely scandalous that you have been imprisoned. I am shocked to read that Glasgow district council has been hostile. Even if they don't agree with what you're doing, they shouldn't attack you.

I've always voted Labour but I've got no confidence in them now. Please find enclosed a contribution of £2 — I was sacked from my job and it's all I can afford. May I wish you the very best of luck.

Maria Kirk, Woodlands, Glasgow

I have never been politically inclined in any way. I never read newspapers and never watched the news because I find it all so deeply depressing. I usually bury my head deep in the sand and ignore it all and hope it will all go away.

The human race doesn't stink when guys like you will fight for what's good and right. Hope to meet you sometime when you get out. Fight on man. You're something else!

Andy and Cathie McMahon, Govan, Glasgow. (Andy was Labour MP for Govan from 1979-83. In his youth he was blacklisted in the shipyards for his union activity)

I must admit at 73 I cried last night as along with Cathie we heard that the Militant had won. I phoned Doris Heffer to tell her the good news. We're sure that Eric would have been happy to know that a rally by the working class has started. As a former MP I am entitled to a seat at the back of the council chambers and if this old leg allows me, I will be there to see a restart of the struggle by our people.

I have no doubt that you will keep to the fore the noble principles of our forefathers, Maclean, Gallacher, Maxton and McShane.

If I were still the MP for Govan I would be asking the Secretary of State to terminate your sentence now and allow you to start to serve the people in your area.

Although we are both OAPs, when you come out get in touch and we will make a small donation for your fighting fund.

Shaun Morgan, Wythenshawe (currently fighting back against police violence in Manchester)

You know the score. I'm fighting this not just for me but for all of us. Nice one Tommy. From your Bro' Shaun. Stay sweet, we are all one.

G Brough, Glasgow

Congratulations! Though I'm not in your constituency I admire the stance you took and consider your treatment most unjust.

You're fighting a good fight, long may you have the health to continue. I hope your ordeal will soon be over and your fervour and your sense of justice unimpaired. Wishing you every success.

SCOTTISH ANTI-POLL TAX FEDERATION

FREE TOMMY SHERIDAN

**NO WARRANT SALES
MARCH & RALLY**

ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDING:

**PAT KANE
(HUE & CRY)**

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

ASSEMBLE:

12.30PM

**POLLOK SHOPPING CENTRE,
GLASGOW**

TOTAL AMNESTY NOW! ..HOTLINE 041 552 1179

The Tories have said that the Poll Tax is dead, and that they'll replace it in April '93. In the meantime, they continue their attempts to implement this immoral tax. In other words, *it's dead but it's not buried*. We aim to change that.

Three years after its implementation, anger about the tax is stronger than ever. This is demonstrated by the recent Scottish Councils' reports covering April '91 to April '92. A staggering 51% of Strathclyde's Poll Tax money has not yet been collected. That means over 60% of people in Strathclyde are not paying. Across Scotland, over 50% are now not paying.

So join the majority, join the army of non-payers!

We have come a long way in the last four years. We were told we could never win with mass non-payment. But we got rid of Maggie Thatcher *and* her Poll Tax. Some people suggest we've won a victory and should now start paying. NO WAY! We can't afford to. Now is not the time for wavering. They have jailed Tommy Sheridan for six months, and they think it will intimidate us. They can forget it -we won't back down!

After four years of stopping poindings and the one attempt at a warrant sale, we're not going to give up now. We demand an end to poindings. We demand that Tommy is released.

The Tories can pay for the mess they made of the Poll Tax. They've given away at least £16 billion to their pals for privatising this and bailing out that. Our demands are not extreme -a total amnesty is a drop in the ocean compared to the *bosses' bonanza*.

Come to the March & Rally -demonstrate your support for Tommy Sheridan. You can write to him at:

265 Linthaugh Rd, Pollok, Glasgow

Poll Tax No More! Poindings No More! Tories No More!

NO WARRANT SALES! FREE TOMMY SHERIDAN!

If you're interested in more information, or need help & advice, send your name and address to **S.A.P.T.F, 69 London Road, Glasgow**, or phone the Hotline on **041 552 1179**.

SCOTTISH ~~Militant~~ LABOUR

VOTE SHERIDAN

**DEFENDER OF
THE POOR**

**For a Workers' MP
on a Worker's Wage**

SCOTTISH ANTI-POLL TAX FEDERATION

FREE TOMMY SHERIDAN

DEMONSTRATE!

**SATURDAY
28TH MARCH**

ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDING:

PAT KANE

(HUE & CRY)

STU WHO?

(FUNNY FARM)

12.00pm POLLOK SHOPPING CENTRE

Transport from Glasgow; Strathclyde Buses 9A, 9B,
9C, 17, 21, 23, 48, 52, 88; Clydeside Buses 10 & 16

NO WARRANT SALES ..HOTLINE 041 552 1179

**SCOTTISH
Militant
LABOUR**

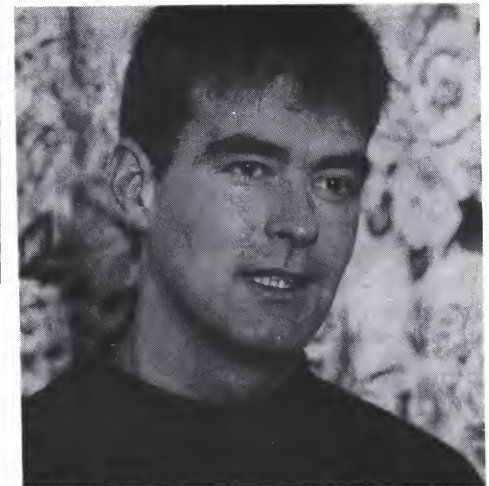
**VOTE
TOMMY
SHERIDAN**

Jailed For Defending The Poor

Tommy Sheridan, Scottish Militant Labour candidate for Pollok is back behind prison bars serving a six-month sentence for defending the poor. His appeal was rushed through at break-neck speed.

This savage sentence will not silence Tommy Sheridan. He will fight this election from his prison cell, on his principled record of standing up for the rights of the working class, including the unemployed, the pensioners, the sick and the disabled.

***Send Your Messages
Of Support To:
Tommy Sheridan
Prisoner No. Civil 2/92
HMP Saughton
Edinburgh***



*On April
9th
vote for
Tommy
Sheridan
- An M.P.
who'll
fight for
Pollok*

"STAND BY ME"

From his cell in Saughton Prison,
he issued this message to the voters of Pollok:

"Now the phoney war is over. Along with millions of others, I want to see the end of this Tory Government, and a Labour Government brought to power on April 9th.

However, the Labour leaders need to be reminded that the Labour Party was not formed to serve the interests of stockbrokers and businessmen, but to fight for the working class and the poor.

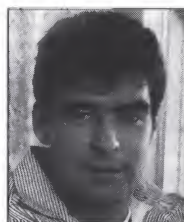
As well as a Labour Government, we need socialist M.P.s who are not afraid to stand up and fight for social justice.

Unfortunately, I will be locked up during this election campaign. However, I do not regret my actions in helping prevent Scotland's first warrant sale. I do not consider myself a criminal.

***I may be on the wrong side of the law
but I am on the right side of the people.***

I am confident that the people of Pollok will stand by me."

FORGET THE TOWER - WHAT ABOUT THE HOUSES?



Pat Lally and his Labour Councillors are at it again. As each week passes they get more and more out of touch with reality. **Our** houses are damp-infested. **Our** windows are useless. We can't afford to heat our rooms adequately. **Our** kids are more vulnerable to asthma and other respiratory problems. Yet Labour and Lally have decided to build a bloody tower! They have already agreed to spend £30,000 **our** money to investigate the creation of the Tait Tower in Bellahouston Park.

The original tower was demolished over 50 years ago. **Now Labour intend to spend between £2 million and £10 million of OUR money to build the tower with a bar, restaurant and a good view!** These people need their heads looked at. The Tories are slashing our housing budgets and council services, and Labour's response is to "investigate" building a new tower!

Labour's architect of the plan said, "It will be a symbol of Glasgow. A powerfully evocative piece of world-class design."

A "symbol" of Glasgow? "World-class design?" What about the people of Glasgow? What about the thousands desperate for new windows, desperate for central heating, desperate for urgent repairs to be carried out?

The whole thing is a piece of nonsense. The symbol Scottish Militant Labour want for Glasgow is our citizens and their children living in safe, secure, warm, wind and water-tight homes. That is our

priority. The only use we could put a big tower to would be to lock up all those Councillors and M.P's that have lied to us and let us down over the years.

What this Tower fiasco shows clearly is the need for radical and fundamental political change in Glasgow. It's time we had Councillors who will fight to improve our conditions, and not just accept them. Councillors who will stand up to the Tories, not do their dirty work.

It's time to give Scottish Militant Labour a chance throughout the city. **At the local elections on April 6th, Vote for Socialism. Vote for real change. Vote SCOTTISH MILITANT LABOUR.**

by Cllr Tommy Sheridan

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- **EEC Beef - distribution points.**
- **Local Government Changes.**
- **Your Councillor's Wages - what does he earn?**
- **Surgery Details.**
- **What Scottish Militant Labour Stands For.**

**DEFY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT
SAY NO TO THE M77 MOTORWAY MADNESS**

COME TO THE DEMO

SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY

12 NOON

GEORGE SQUARE, GLASGOW

**DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST, THE RIGHT TO
ORGANISE, THE RIGHT TO RAVE.**

for more details contact the Scottish Alliance
Against the Act: 041 552 6773 or 883 8063

**COME AND JOIN THE MARCH
TO POLLOK FREE STATE**

"Labour MP's & Militant Councillors - they're all the same" ... or are they?

A number of constituents recently enquired what the level of wages was for a Councillor, compared to an M.P. It seems more and more people are questioning the value for money we get from our M.P.s. No-one is against the rate for the job, but what does an M.P. get? **They get a basic salary of £31 687, along with £40 000 in office expenses** and several thousand pounds in travel costs.

As the elected Councillor for Pollok, **my wage is £66 per week after deductions.** As this is my sole income it makes me a very low-paid worker. **I do not qualify for a full Housing or Council Tax Rebate.**

Scottish Militant Labour believes a minimum wage should be introduced for all workers, including councillors. We also believe M.P.s and trade union officials should be paid the average wage of skilled workers, and not the massive salaries which currently take them out of touch with ordinary people. **It's time we had workers' M.P.s and trade union officials on workers wages.**

.... and the proof

(Councillor Sheridan's wage slip)

CITY OF GLASGOW					4821.24		4/2/95		PAY ADVISORY		
AY. FICE	DEPT.	LOCATION	EMPLOYEE REFERENCE	NAME		NAT. INSURANCE NUMBER	N.I. CAT.	TAX CODE	SUPERANNUATION RATE	WEEKLY WAGE/ ANNUAL SALARY	W/ MO
0	40	4010	0051001	SHERIDAN THOMAS		N0235936A	A	BR		109.71	4
DETAILS OF TIME PAYABLE (CODES OVERLEAF)											
CODE	TIME	RATE	CODE	TIME	RATE	PAY ITEMS				GROSS PAY	
						BASIC	OVERTIME	CODED ALLOWANCES TOTAL	BONUS	109.71	
										109.71	
						DEDUCTIONS				TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	
						INCOME TAX	NAT. INSURANCE	SUPERANNUATION	CODED DEDUCTIONS TOTAL	43.66	
						27.25	6.41		10.00		
						TAX YEAR ACCUMULATIONS				NET PAY	
						TAXABLE PAY	INCOME TAX	NAT. INSURANCE	SUPERANNUATION	66.05	
						4827.24	976.75	282.04			

Labour: pay more and get less Militant: Demand more repairs

Glasgow's rents were increased again on December 22nd last year. Our average rent increased by £1.94 per week, to take the average rent throughout the city to £33.23 per week. In 1979 the average rent in Glasgow was £9 per week. In my experience, people don't mind paying a little more if the level of service also increases. Paying more to get more is a widely accepted principle. The problem with Labour in our city is they continually want us to pay more for less. Average weekly rent increased by £1.94 this year and 90p last year. Yet the amount spent on Housing Repairs was reduced by £2.5 million last year and £500 000 this year. That is a scandal. We have suspended many important repairs and are not able to complete fabric, gutter, and dampness repairs in anywhere near adequate times. We have workers in the Building and Works Depots who will now have even less money to provide a proper repairs service.

The Labour Councillors are simply out of touch. So few of them actually live in Council houses, and therefore find it difficult to understand the problems we face. *Scottish Militant moved a legal budget this year which re-instated suspended repairs, increased the general repairs budget by £1.5 million, and provided enough money for 1800 central heating units immediately. All of this would have meant only a £1.91 per week increase. In other words, Militant's budget meant paying less than Labour's but getting more; Labour's budget means paying more but getting less. Unfortunately, Labour, the Tories, SNP and Liberal Councillors voted for the Labour Rent Increase and Repairs cut.*

What we need is a council with the guts to set an illegal budget to meet our real needs, instead of a legal budget which cuts our services. The Labour, Tory, and SNP alliance will continue to vote for Repairs cuts and Rent rises but *Scottish Militant Labour will never support cuts in repairs.* We live locally. We know the problems. We ask for your continued support in trying to get things moving.

NO MORE CUTS IN REPAIRS - REINSTATE SUSPENDED REPAIRS.

LABOUR'S POLL TAX SHAME

I suppose we all have Cherie Blair to thank. The poll tax may be as dead as a plate of Veal Milanese, but its victims are still very much alive and suffering.

That's where **Labour's** First Lady comes in. She brought scandal to the nation's attention. Not because she used her considerable legal skills to champion the rights of the poor people dragged through the English courts for their failure to pay this obsolete charge. Not a bit of it.

As we all know by now the brilliant barrister was exposed by the Independent on Sunday as having pleaded with a magistrate to jail a penniless man. Far from this being an isolated incident, she also once presented a paper on how effectively to punish these beastly non-payers. Mrs Blair's high-profile exposure led to a proper examination of the so far largely ignored scandal of jailings in England and Wales. The figure last year increased sixfold to 1,202. **A total of 3,500 have been sent to prison.**

A disproportionate number of these are mentally ill, old or disabled. This is because arrears cannot be automatically deducted from invalidity benefit and pensions. **Typical is Lynne Jeavons, an asthmatic with learning difficulties from Sandwell, near Birmingham, who was jailed for 21 days and released after ten when she became suicidal.** Of course, until recently, their fate seldom made it beyond the pages of **Militant**. It took Mrs Blair to get Jeremy Paxman on the case last week.

Then, as if by magic, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the Government was wrong to jail an unemployed man for non-payment. The judgement hinged on the fact that such defendants are denied legal aid - unlike criminals.

But can we really call Mrs Blair a Hypocrite? After all, what she did was in accordance with Labour Party policy. She was doing no worse than the local authorities who, over the years, have used every means at their disposal to recover this money.

All this is perfectly relevant to Scotland. We do not jail people for debt. But we devise different kinds of imprisonment for people already trapped in poverty, like James and Mary McFadden, an elderly disabled couple from Castlemilk in Glasgow. They rely on basic state pensions but are being pursued by George Walker and Co, one of the sheriff's officers to whom Strathclyde Regional Council has passed its poll tax debts. Mr McFadden is 80, registered blind and suffers from emphysema and the shingles. He owes £888.75. His housebound wife is 76, fully deaf in one ear and has only partial hearing in the other. She owes £822.75.

Strathclyde Regional Council will argue it is legally obliged to pursue such debts. This is a matter of interpretation. Gordon Dangerfield, a Scottish

solicitor who regularly represents victims of the poll tax free of charge, advised Scottish local authorities at the outset to take a test case on the irrecoverability of the tax. He argued that the spirit of the Debtors Scotland Act implies that **money owed should be written off** if it is exceeded by cost of collection. Indeed, the basic premise of the Act is to stop sheriff's officers pursuing people who are too poor to pay.

But instead of taking this course of action, Scotland's regional authorities, controlled by **Labour, Liberals and the SNP**, have had their legal departments devise ever more ingenious ways of recovering the tax. Now Dangerfield is pursuing a case with the European Commission which could have the same implications in Scotland that Stephen Benham's success had in England. He is challenging the summary warrant procedures which lead to people like the McFaddens being harassed. These warrants are issued in blanket form by sheriffs. But the people they are served against do not have the opportunity to put their case. **That, says Dangerfield, is an abuse of human rights.**

If he wins his case, it is unlikely that Scottish local authorities will give a collective cheer at being relieved of this unpleasant legal burden. They seem to enjoy the burden and still argue that they are legally obliged to continue to collect even the smallest sum. In fact, the Scottish Office has still to make up its mind who is responsible for the debt after 1996. A government spokesman said on Monday: **"It is for local authorities and their auditors to decide whether particular debts should be written off."**

This makes sense. Outstanding business rates are regularly written off. The reason why local authorities do not exercise the same common sense with regard to individuals is political. When the poll tax was introduced all those years ago, **Labour councillors followed the party line and insisted nothing could be done.** They said vigorous parliamentary debate would defeat the tax. **As it turned out, people listened to the Anti-Poll Tax Federation instead.** Millions did not pay and the tax became obsolete along with Mrs Thatcher, all because people refused to take the advice of politicians.

The politicians who were so publicly proved wrong are still spiteful. **That's** why old, blind and deaf people such as the McFaddens are still being pursued; to soothe the politicians' bruised egos. Edmund Burke said bad laws were the worst form of tyranny. They also form a useful cover for those who thunder social conscience but have feet of clay.

This article was written by Joan McAlpine and published in the Scotsman Magazine, Thursday 2nd February 1995.

SML - WHAT WE STAND FOR

Scottish Militant Labour is a Socialist Party, committed to radical and fundamental change in society. We believe the current Capitalist system is inefficient, anarchic, and unable to provide for our families and our class. We believe Capitalism has to go, and a Socialist plan of production for need not profit should replace it. Do you think society needs radical change? Are you fed up with the inequality and injustice all around us? Do you think it is wrong that the rich are getting richer while the rest of us are getting poorer? If you do then come to your local SML meeting (details below) and hear Councillor Sheridan present Scottish Militant Labour's case for Socialism.

SCOTTISH MILITANT LABOUR PUBLIC MEETINGS

- **TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY - 7.30pm, BONNYHOLM PRIMARY.**
- **WEDNESDAY 1st MARCH - 7.30pm, LEITHLAND PRIMARY.**
- **THURSDAY 2nd MARCH - 7.30pm, McGILL PRIMARY.**

FREE EEC BEEF

The North Pollok Community Council has been successful once again in securing surplus EEC beef distribution in our area. If you are in receipt of Income Support, Family Credit, a State Pension, or Disability Working Allowance then you are entitled to 8 tins of beef. Make sure you bring proof of the above to one of the distribution points which caters for your area. Distribution will take place on **THURSDAY 2nd MARCH** and **FRIDAY 3rd MARCH** between 11am and 2pm in the following centres:

- **LEITHLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, KEMPSTHORN ROAD** (serving Brockburn, Leithland, Netherplace, Cornalee, Comaig, etc)
- **NORTH POLLOK C.C. FLAT, LADYMUIR CRESCENT** (serving Dormanside, Hapland, Templeland, Meikderig, low Linthaugh, etc)
- **WESTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALFHILL ROAD** (serving Bonnyholm, Whinhill, Linthaugh, Dormanside, Lyoncross, Calfhill etc)

LOCAL SURGERY DETAILS

Councillor Sheridan and a number of helpers staff three surgeries every Saturday morning. We can never guarantee to win your case, but we do guarantee to try. Come along and see if we can help.

- **LEITHLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, KEMPSTHORN RD: 10-11.30AM**
- **WESTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALFHILL RD: 10-11.30AM**
- **NORTH POLLOK COMMUNITY COUNCIL FLAT, LADYMUIR CRESCENT: 10-11.30AM**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES

The Tories are attacking local government jobs and services yet again. This time they are doing it under the guise of Local Government Re-organisation. Thousands of jobs and many vital services face the axe. The Regional Council is to be abolished, and a new Glasgow City Council formed to deal with Education, Social Work, and Roads, as well as the current responsibilities for Housing, Parks, etc.

Unfortunately the Labour Party in both London and Scotland has accepted these changes with only a whimper of opposition. This means our water supply is set to be taken over by an unelected and unaccountable board of directors. These Tory placemen and women will issue our Water Bills and prepare the way for full privatisation. Unlike Labour and the SNP, Scottish Militant Labour is clear on what needs to be done. We are calling on Scotland to stand up in defence of our water. We say don't co-operate with these Water Boards, and don't pay the bills issued by these people.

We hope to make this the policy of the new Glasgow Council. On April 6th, the elections to the new council will be held. Scottish Militant Labour will stand throughout Pollok and Glasgow. We ask for your support. **Vote SML - the peoples' voice.**

elections April 6th *elections April 6th*

If you can help Scottish Militant Labour in the elections in any way, then contact the number below. But don't just vote SML on the 6th of April; get involved in the fight against low pay, against Tory water boards, against council cutbacks; get involved in the campaigns for better housing, proper nursery provision, and a decent education system. Fight with us for a better future. **Fight for socialism. Join SML.**

name.....
address.....

.....tel:

send to Tommy Sheridan 258 Linthaugh Rd, G53 or phone Tommy on 882 9381. Phone SML's office on 552 6773.

Cops swoop on Sheridan

THE leader of the anti-poll tax campaign could face police charges after massive demonstrations in the city this week.

Tommy Sheridan and his mother Alice were among around 30 people lifted by police after sheriff officers tried to carry out a poinding blitz in the north of Glasgow.

Charges of deforcement – stopping an officer of the law carrying out his duties – can carry a jail sentence of up to six months.

Protestors believe the charge, first

By ANGELA DEWAR

introduced during the highland clearances, hasn't been tested in Scotland in living memory.

Other protestors face charges of obstructing police and breach of the peace.

Trouble flared up on Tuesday when nearly 500 rebels took to the streets of Germiston to stop sheriff officers' plans to carry out poindings at 41 homes.

Demand

Later the same day over 100 people marched to Baird Street police station, where protestors were being held, to demand their release.

One witness, Keith Baldassara of Barmulloch, said: "The events of this week have been a disgrace. The role the police have played in assisting the sheriff officers has to be questioned.

"After all the trouble there was only one poinding carried out – that was only because the guy was terrified."

Springburn MP Michael Martin savaged the anti-poll tax rebels.

He said: "The anti-poll tax federation are malicious and extremely irresponsible."

EVENING TIMES

LET GLASGOW FLOURISH

EXCLUSIVE... SEE THE
BIG WIN
FREE
PAGE 9

INSIDE TODAY



LADY KILLER OF THE STREET

PAGES 10 and 11

WHEN A WOMAN HAS TO SURVIVE ON HER OWN

PAGES 26 and 27

GLASGOW LIVE

THE BEST GIG IN TOWN

PAGES 28 and 29

£61,000 PLACE THE BALL JACKPOT PAGE 18

'CRAIG TO SHUT EARLY

By KEN SYMON

THE closure of Ravenscraig has been brought forward THREE MONTHS.

The bleak news came in a shock British Steel announcement that steelmaking will end on June 27.

It means the loss of up to 2000 jobs - 1220 British Steel employees and the rest regular contractors.

And the giant Motherwell plant and the Hunterston ore terminal will face a phased closure after that.

THE FINAL NAIL TURN TO PAGE 2

The closures had originally been scheduled for September but BS said today: "Market conditions are such that there is no requirement for Ravenscraig's output beyond the end of June."

UNION

"Accordingly, the decision has been taken to cease steelmaking on 27 June 1992 and a phased closure

will be implemented at Ravenscraig and Hunterston.

"The phased closure is being discussed with trade union representatives."

The announcement was immediately seized on by SNP steel spokesman Iain Lawson who said he had been predicting a June closure since March.

Labour's Donald Dewar said the

Government should make sure BS didn't get away with just a token payment as conscience money.

And the Scottish Liberal Democrats said the closure had been moved forward from 1994 to September 1992 and now June - BS should at least pay the workers for the extra three months.

Mr Lawson said the SNP had predicted the June closure after correspondence with BS chief executive Brian Moffat.

(Continued on Page 2)

SHERIDAN POLL-AXED

FIRST PAY PACKET ARRESTED FOR DEBT

COUNCILLOR Tommy Sheridan received his first pay-packet today - and it was immediately seized by sheriff officers.

While he languished in Saughton Prison, court officials turned up to collect his £105 allowance from the City Chambers.

"They will now use the cash to help pay off the Poll Tax debt of Scotland's most infamous campaigner."

But the rebel councillor has vowed to fight the move.

CELL

He said today his lawyers would challenge the arrest order as it was "vindictive".

Speaking from his Edinburgh prison cell he said the allowance would be his only income when he was released from prison.

"This will put me in serious financial problems as I will have not a penny to pay rent or buy food," he said.

"It doesn't surprise me

By RON MacKENNA
and VIC RODRICK

that the get tough councils at the top of the tree really meant get tough with the poor and not with the Tories."

"The officials' action means the councillor could be up to date with his Poll Tax before he is freed."

"I can confirm we have received an arrestment order for the allowance of Councillor Sheridan," said Glasgow Town Clerk Tom Monaghan.

The Militant leader has qualified for the payment

(Continued on Page 8)



TOMMY SHERIDAN
Vows to fight move

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SHERIDAN IS POLL-AXED

(Continued from Page 1)

despite the fact he has been locked up since winning Glasgow Pollok.

Like the other 65 councillors in the City Chambers, Poll Tax prisoner Sheridan should have received his first payment today.

But acting on a tip-off, Strathclyde Region finance bosses instructed sheriff officers to freeze the cash.

Officials and councillors

– exasperated by Sheridan's high-profile non-payment campaign – see the move as a marvellous publicity coup.

BLOW

Glasgow City Council's depute finance director Jim Andrews said it had to freeze the allowance when it received an arrestment order.

The move is a fresh blow for the new councillor.

Earlier this week his council colleagues refused to use their powers as Justices of the Peace to swear him in.

Eventually it was arranged that JP Marion Sweeney from Govan should travel to the prison this morning to perform the ceremony.

Councillor Sheridan, chairman of the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation,

was having money deducted from his benefit payments before he was jailed for contempt of court two months ago.

But Strathclyde stopped receiving the instalments as prisoners' Social Security payments are suspended.

Despite these setbacks, this morning he launched a new bid for cash from the council – lodging a claim for £6000 election expenses.

The Herald, Saturday, May 16, 1992

HC

Sheridan receives council pay in jail

By IAIN WILSON

THE Government is being asked to change rules that allow councillors to collect their weekly allowance of £105.87p even when in prison.

The move came after Militant Councillor Tommy Sheridan, the jailed poll tax rebel, received his first payment yesterday.

However, the money was impounded by sheriff officers acting on behalf of Strathclyde region, and will go towards paying his arrears.

It is likely all debts will now

be met by the time he is released from Saughton Prison in July, according to finance department officials.

Glasgow district Tory group leader Bill Aitken said of taxpayers' effectively footing a non-payment bill stretching back to 1989, and of a councillor still being paid when in prison: "The general public must now think that the lunatics are in charge of the asylum.

"Sheridan, locked up for bad behaviour, is being paid for duties which he cannot perform and that money is being taken

off him to pay his debts. It really is bizarre."

Councillor Sheridan, chairman of the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation, was elected to the City Chambers last week after running his campaign from a cell at Saughton Prison in Edinburgh.

He would not have been eligible for councillors' allowances until his release but for the Government scrapping a payments system last year.

It abandoned pay-outs only if meetings were attended in favour of a flat rate allowance — which in Councillor Sheridan's case works out at £105.87 a week

or £5505.24 a year, subject to tax and national insurance.

The new system led to rows in Glasgow because absenteeism soared and important meetings were cancelled as councillors couldn't muster a quorum.

Yesterday's arrestment order was greeted with joy by some councillors and officials embarrassed by his high-profile campaign against the poll tax and subsequent success at the polls.

Ironically, the action means it is unlikely he will be taken to court and bankrupted — a move that would have prevented him taking his seat on the council on release.

Councillor Aitken said he was unhappy that taxpayers are meeting Councillor Sheridan's debts, but added: "One feels further deductions ought to be made for the interest owed, and indeed for his bed and board while in Saughton.

"Fortunately, this Kafkaesque situation does not frequently arise but, really, some amendment to the legislation should be made to preclude those in prison from being paid for work which they clearly cannot do.

"I will be writing accordingly to the Scottish Office."

Councillor Sheridan was unrepentant after being sworn in as a councillor yesterday by a Justice of the Peace who visited his cell yesterday, and also witnessed a near-£6000 expenses' claim for his election campaign to gain Pollok from Labour.

He said lawyers would challenge the arrestment order as "vindictive," and expressed anger that councils are being tough with the poor and not with the Tories. He also warned of serious financial problems if his allowances are repeatedly impounded.

Sheridan is author of Labour's misery

Continued from Page 1

overall recording a drop in their majority from 59 to 54.

State of the parties in Glasgow is now Labour 54; Conservative 5 (up one); SNP 2 (up one); Liberal-Democrats 1 (down one), Others 4 (up four).

There was a huge roar in the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre when the Pollok result was announced.

Scores of Sheridan fans joined his mother Alice in celebrating the result with a rendition of "We'll keep the Red Flag Flying," and "Nice One, Tommy". The result follows Mr Sheridan's General Election "success", when he took more than 6000 votes in the Labour-held Pollok constituency.

Mrs Sheridan, who celebrated her 54th birthday on Wednesday, clutched a framed photograph of her son as she spoke about the result which had everyone talking.

"The people of Pollok have put their faith and their trust in the integrity and decency of Tommy and they are clearly prepared to struggle for a better future for their

children with Tommy as their leader."

Mrs Sheridan, who was almost overcome with emotion and was often drowned out by the celebrations behind her, continued: "Tommy will be continuing, as a councillor, to address the inhumane living conditions of the people of Pollok and he will not sell working people down the river — they know that."

Mr Sheridan's election agent Keith Baldassara added "this is a complete vindication of the years of work Tommy has done in defending people, particularly in the struggle against the Poll Tax."

Conservatives were quickly into celebration mood last night with a triumph over the SNP in Shawlands.

This was the party's first gain for 15 years in the city, according to victorious candidate Iain Thomas, who declared: "We are on the way back. I am absolutely stunned."

The Tories gain in Shawlands was, however, turned on its head in nearby Pollokshields. Labour's new candidate Mohammed Sarwar had a 394 majority over Mr Jack Richmond, a former Conservative leader.

Sadly, early results in Glasgow pointed to widespread apathy among city electors with an average turnout looking like a disappointing 30%.

Glasgow's former lord provost, Susan Baird, held Parkhead with a thumping majority of 948.

It was almost three times that of the second-placed SNP candidate Alan Cairey in a turnout of just 25%.

Labour group secretary Patricia Chalmers held her Partick seat with more than double the vote of the SNP candidate James Beers.

Militant's breakthrough in seats with huge Labour majorities is certain to result in very lively council meetings.

Meanwhile, telephone canvassing failed to keep the Conservatives in control of Bearsden and Milngavie District. A surge by the Liberal Democrats saw them gain two seats and leave the Glasgow suburb with a hung council.

However, the Tories remain the largest single party with five seats, the Liberal Democrats now hold four and Labour one.

Labour councillor Des McGarry now finds him-

self the most popular man in the district and said that he expects the Liberal Democrats to be in touch before the council meets for the first time a week today.

Eastwood district proved to be a steadfast bulwark for the Tory Party in Scotland with eight Conservative councillors being returned with sizeable majorities.

Despite concern over the potential political damage of the Pilmuir Quarry controversy exprovost and planning convener Ian Hutchison substantially increased his vote over the colourful Lib-Dem candidate Ella Rae.

Contrary to gloomy prognostications, Labour solo representative Jim Fletcher held onto Thornliebank.

East Kilbride deputy provost Edward McKenna lost his Hairmyres seat to the Scottish National Party.

Labour lost two seats overall to SNP.

Clydebank Provost David Grainger lost his Old Kilpatrick seat after a dramatic swing towards his Independent opponent, Billy Kemp.

The Conservative Party made sizeable gains in Strathkelvin largely at

the expense of the Labour Party.

However the Conservatives success in six wards, an increase of four from the previous election, fell short of their bid to oust the controlling Labour administration who will now form a new council with a majority of three.

The most notable scalp claimed by the Conservatives was that of Labour group leader Andy Cochrane, who saw his 250 majority overhauled by the Conservative candidate Ian Young.

There was also an upset in the Woodhead ward where the sitting Labour councillor James Barker was beaten by the Conservative choice Edith Hogg.

Labour held onto control of Renfrew District Council by only one seat.

The state of the council is now Labour 23, SNP 12, Conservative 8, SLD 2.

Labour's majority of 17 was cut to one when SNP gained seven Labour seats and the Conservatives gained two from Labour.

The Labour group meets on Sunday to pick a new provost following the retiral of Provost George Murray who did not stand for re-election.